

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of FRANCE:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and
Petty-Statesmen, of all Sides.

Tuesday, August 29. 1704.

I Hinted in the last *Review* the Scandal rais'd on this Undertaking, viz. *That it does not please every body*; I hope some of the Gentlemen Objectors will take that Note for an Answer, as particularly the Gentleman who is so Angry at my Opinion, concerning the Consequences of the late Victory; and so much for Objectors.

'Tis my Satisfaction that they cannot, nor indeed have they attempted to Answer the Reasons brought on this Head; when they can, I shall most readily alter my Opinion.

I am of Opinion I have sin'd against Novelty in the Article of *Sweden*, and as most People have this Vice in their Judgments, to be always cloy'd with a long Story, I might have dwelt upon the *Swedish* Affair too long: The Fancy is the Weather-cock of the Soul, and 'tis always Vereing with the Gusts of Novelty; Men are eternally gaping after Variety, and no Story can be so well told, as to please them, if it be too long in telling.

And yet I cannot satisfy my self to close with this humour of the Town, and quit a Subject, before I have gone thro' it, to please the Luxuriance of the World's imagination; such as think me dull, only because I am long, are like those that don't approve of the Sermon, because they don't love the Parson.

I have examined the particular Article of the *Swedish* War in *Poland*, I have freely told the World my Opinion in two Points, and have advanc'd this Conclusion; First, that the Proceed-

ings of the *Swedes*, are a very great support to *French* Power; and Secondly, that the *French* Greatness is the Principal Support of the present *Swedish* Proceedings; and then I think I bring it to my Text, and make the Story very Consistent with my Design, in telling the World the Extent of *French* Power.

I cannot quit the Subject, without some Remarks relating to the Consequence of those Matters.

The *Swedes* have given *Poland* a King, I wou'd be understood, they have stood by, and given them an opportunity, I cannot say, Liberty to choose a King.

As to them that object against the Freedom of the Election, I have little to say, the Election was every way free, except, as before excepted, the *Poles* chose him, the *Swedes* only told them who they should choose, and stood by, drawn up to make them do it.

'Tis true, the Cardinal Primate, Prince *Lubomirsky*, and several of the Nobility, stood off a little, and protested, but the *Swedes* did nothing, they only threatned to ravage their Lands a little, they complied, and saw the reason of the thing very plainly.

To hear some People talk of the free Election of a King of *Poland*, under these Circumstances; is something like the Duke of *Lorraine* being a free Sovereign, with a *French* Garrison in the Citadel of *Nancy*.

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To talk of a free Election, with the *Swedish* Army drawn up at the distance of 100 Yards from the Place, is something like the free Common Hall of the City, with the Trained Bands at the Door, or *Oliver Cromwell's* free Parliament, with his Guards at the Door, to keep whom he pleas'd out of the House.

But an Election, such as it is, is made, and the Palatine of *Posen* is declared King, by the Name of *Stanislaus*; as to who chose him, it seems to be a Question the very *Swedes* themselves are not very careful about.

We say he is chosen by a very inconsiderable Party, a meer *Rump Assembly*; not a Palatin, not a Deputy is seen from any of the Provinces of that Great Dominion, Great *Poland* excepted; he is made a King by the influence of a Foreign Army; and 'tis worth Enquiry, what Course the King of *Sweden* will take to irritate him in Possession, and how he will be receiv'd by the other Princes of Christendom.

As to the latter, I am of Opinion, the *French* King will make no scruple to be the first in *Europe*, that will acknowledge this new King. If his *Swedish* Majesty should Attempt to follow the Measures of the King of *France*, and to Huff and Insult all those Princes, who refuse to own this King of his own making, as his most Christian Majesty did in the Case of the New King of *Spain*; possibly he might not meet with so good Success in it, and might bring more Enemies on his own hands than he could deal with.

But at present his *Swedish* Majesty Declares he will stand by this New King with all his Power; and thus the War in the North is broke out into such a Flame, as can never be quench'd, but in the Destruction of one of these two Powers.

The Circumstance of this Matter has something in it which looks very awkwardly upon the Principles some People take upon them to vindicate, as to the *Jus Divinum*, of Kingly Power; if the Sanction depends upon the Person of the King, I cannot conceive how this Mountebanking of Kings setting them up, and pulling them down at Pleasure, consists with the Sacred Institution of Princes.

I would be very glad to be inform'd, which of these two Kings have the Stamp of Sacred Imprinted upon their Person; if the latter, then all the pretence of Sacred falls to the Ground, because it is Transpos'd with the Name, and it may lie in the Breast of any Neighbouring Monarch, to remove the Sanction, as consists with his Interest; if the former, then is all *Europe*

running either into a War with the *Swede*, or into the Evil of demolishing the Divine Image in the Person of the injured Prince.

I cannot therefore imagine the King of *Sweden* will be able so far to influence the Princes of Christendom, as to oblige them to joyn with this New King of his setting up; I cannot guess, the King of *France* excepted, who will be the first King to acknowledge him; who will send Ambassadors to Congratulate him on his New Throne, and who will first give his Ambassadors the Honours due to the Ministers of a Crown'd head?

Perhaps these Gentlemen who maintain the Doctrine of Divine Right, may think it wholly unconcern'd in this Case, and Elective Kings not at all to be reckoned among the Sacred Persons they mean; yet these Gentlemen must allow the Receiving a Person to the Exercise of a Sovereign Authority, owning him for King, and swearing Allegiance to him, Entitles him to all the Subjection that such People owe to any body, and cannot be dissolv'd, but by the same Legal Power that bound them.

I am farther at a loss to consider how the King of *Sweden*, or any one Prince whatever, can put a Man upon a Neighbouring People, as a King, stand by with his Army to oblige them to Elect him, force the Dissenting, Opposing, Protesting Nobility to Comply; five Parts in seven of the whole *Polish* Nation dissenting, and taking up Arms against it, and while all this Opposition is making, call him a King.

This seems to Level the Title of King absolutely with the Will of a Party; and to Entitle any part of a Government to impose a Person on, and give Laws to the rest.

This admits of abundance of Speculations, which are too Foreign to this Matter, and which I cannot enlarge on here, the Digressions I am obliged to of this Nature, being lyable to some Censure.

The Sum of the Matter is this; The King of *Sweden* has driven Matters to the last Extremity; he has brought another King of *Poland* upon the Stage of the World; he has promised, and is therefore bound to support his Pretensions.

How he will bring the World to approve this way of making Kings, and pulling down Kings at Pleasure?

How he will bring the rest of *Europe* to Approve, Congratulate, and Recognize this New King of his own making?

How he will persuade us to believe this to be a free Election?

How he will Convince the Confederates that he is not a Party to *French* Power, and an Enemy to the Present Grand Alliance?

How he will persuade them to let him pursue the Present King of Poland into *Saxony*, and carry the War into the heart of the Empire?

How long the Confederates will see themselves thus Embarrass'd by the Measures this Prince is pursuing; and not agree to hold his hands from blowing up a Destructive Flame in *Germany*?

These are Questions very difficult to Answer;

but as to the last, I am fully persuaded that *Europe* cannot be so blind, as to let it be long thus; the Consequence of these Proceedings, will in a little time so sensibly touch us all, that the General Stream must run against the Designs of the *Swedes*, by the Natural Course of things—or if not, *Swedish* Power and *French* Power will be equally Fatal to us; the one will Disarm us, while the other will Assault us; and I am so sure of this being the Event, that I venture the Reputation of my little Judgment upon the Consequence.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

THE following Letter being sent to the Society, they supposed the Gentleman would think himself and his Cause a little affronted if the Lines were not put in; so you have them exactly Transcrib'd as follows:

To the Gentlemen of the Scandalous Club.

Sirs,

I prefer your Club much before the Athenian Oracle, and therefore have sent you the inclosed, desiring you would give your Sentiments on it in your next Review, and you will much oblige

Your humble Servant,

T. B.

Reader, when Paul's shall finish'd be
All England there
With one Consent

Convened thou shalt see;

To open, read, and bear

Our Lord's last Will and Testament:

And this one thing

I'm well assured

That he hath made the English King

His Chief Executor and Steward.

T. B.

The Worthy Author is understood by the Society, to mean, that the Steward he is pleas'd so to mention, is to suppose, That when St. Paul's shall be finish'd, the Pretended Prince of Wales shall be Declared Executor of Divine Authority in *England*.

The Truth of it is, and we are absolutely of the Opinion, what he drives at will be Paul's Work——and as we are oblig'd to him for adjourning the Story till after Paul's is finish'd, the Society thought fit to Order this Notice to be given.

That if the Party pleas'd to be Content till

Paul's is finish'd, before they bring their Monarch in, the Government will be in no Pain, for that Care will be taken for the time beyond that Period; and so they may even prepare to satisfy themselves with dying like the Prophets, in the Faith of it.

A Complaint was made to the Society of some Abuses Committed, in taking Indirect Methods to Lift Men for Soldiers, making Men Drunk, and then putting Money into their hands, and pretending they had Lifted, 'hurry'ing them away to the *Savoy*, where they are secur'd under a Guard, and kept as Prisoners till they are Convey'd to *Holland*, &c.

The Society put by a great many Complaints with telling them, They ought to apply themselves to the Magistrates; and that it was Certain the Government, if rightly inform'd, would rectify any Abuses of that kind.

But at last came one of the Sons of the *Muses*, his Complaint was very large, how basely Trepan'd, how cruelly Used, &c. The Society easily saw he was a Man of Letters, one fitter to handle his Pen than a Sword; fitter to keep Company with *Horace* and *Virgil* than *Mars*; at least a Man of too much Value, to be forc'd to carry a Musquet——and in Order to help him, they Voted it Scandalous, that such a Man should be treated in that manner——and some Persons of Honour having Certified for him, he was Delivered out of the hands of the the Devil; by the Magistrates.

The Grateful Poet then Petition'd the Society to Insert the following Acknowledgment to his Benefactors, which with respect to the Dignity of his Profession, they could not deny him.

Colendin

Colendit. &c. Justiff. Pacis Justitiarius
Westmonalt.

Unde quam Curii vobis pietate verendi
Justitiâ vestrâ carmina digna dare?
Faucibus ex erebi squalor rediit Italia,
Elysiis campis non fuit illa mea.
Orpheus Eurydicen petiit sub tartara vates,
Nullus amor nostri funeris antor erat.
Stultæ quid uxorem repetit Plutonis ab antro?
Fallaci veneri convenit iste Locustæ.
Illic Cimæriis tenebris sua gaudia voluæ,
Furta deæ Cypriæ nam sine Luce placent.
Tuque deam poterat citharæ mulcere sonore
Quæ regit infernos igne cremante choros.
Audierat facile, timuit ne forte Maritima
Eurydicen fœderat nocte silente tuam.
Non mihi pulchra fuit cujus capitur amore,
Quæ, rogo, quæ variis pauperis uxor est?
Flectere si liceat quercus modulamine vocis,
Non tulerat nostros horrida diuæ sonos.
Pluto mihi setericò contorsit lumina vultu,
Visus eram domino divitis umbra sui.
Miratur deus atque uiger quo jure poeta
Pauperie pressus tartara nigra petas.
Munere versificis cum tellus fungitur orci,
Plus in Nummificis cerbere juris habes.
Non mora. Conveniunt Minos, Rêadamanthus & æquus
Æacus, & julex alter honestus erat.
Miles ab officio sceleris se sistere torvus
Cogitur; ut timuit judicis ora reus?
Arguit & veteri Martis sibi jure Licere
Mortales Stygio condere sæpe lacu.
An dolus an virtus fuerat quis in bosse requirat?
Sæpe jurat Martis fraus in honesta viros.
Hæc me præcipiem rapuit pblegetonis in undas,
Martia vis fueras, credite, junctæ dolis.
Sed chorus ille virum quo non est justior alter
Damnavit rabidi sæcta nefanda gregis.
Nobilibus vitulis ornatum fecerat audax
Fura sui patrii, se quoque nosse, soli.
Arma togis celeri cesserunt impia motu,
Miles & invicta lege repulsus abijt.
Vivat nestoræos judex justissimus annos
Qui dederat vari vivere posse suo.
Vita tamen fuerat frustra, nisi Phæbe tulisses
Rebus in ambiguis tu generosus opem.
Nos ingens Halifax lustravit Lampade vivâ,
Par erat ingenio Muzificæque manu.

K. C.

This day is publish'd,

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